

Remarks

Applicants have carefully reviewed this Application in light of the final Office Action mailed June 30, 2004. Although Applicants believe all claims are allowable without amendment, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 11, and 20 and amended Claims 2-7, 10 12-16, 19, 21-25, and 28 to expedite issuance of a Patent from this Application. Applicants do not consider these changes narrowing and do not consider these changes necessary for patentability. Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

Claims 7, 16, and 25 are Allowable

The Examiner states, "Claims 7, 16 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that Claims 7, 16, 25 would be allowable if amended. Applicants have amended Claims 7, 16, and 25 to include all limitations recited in independent Claims 1, 11, and 20, respectively. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of Claims 7, 16, and 25.

Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-15, 17-19, 21-24, and 26-28 are Allowable

Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-15, 17-19, 21-24, and 26-28 depend on Claims 7, 16, and 25. Applicants have shown that Claims 7, 16, and 25 are allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-15, 17-19, 21-24, and 26-28.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants appreciate the Examiner acknowledging that Claims 30-32 contain allowable subject matter. Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(e), Applicants respectfully issue the following comments on the stated reasons for allowance. Applicants respectfully disagree with the stated reasons for allowance to the extent that they are inconsistent with applicable case law, statutes, and regulations. Furthermore, Applicants do not admit to any

characterization or limitation of Claims 30-32 in the stated reasons for allowance, particularly any that are inconsistent with the language of the claims, considered in their entirety and including all their constituent limitations.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to call Christopher W. Kennerly, Attorney for Applicants, at 214-953-6812.

Applicants believe no fee is due. Nonetheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
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